



Color



Fruit



Height range 80-100'



Blackgum

Nyssa sylvatica

The Dogwood Family (Cornaceae)

Basic Description: Reliable early fall color and unusual horizontal branching distinguish a Blackgum from the oaks and elms that it may appear to be upon first inspection. Alternate, deciduous leaves are evenly spaced along the current year's twig growth.

Interesting Facts: Honey bees use the nectar to make honey. Twigs from the Blackgum can be used to make a toothbrush by fraying the ends.

Flower: Male flower is greenish-yellow and .125" wide; female on same plant is greenish in tiny clusters at the end of a loose stalk.

Fruit: .375" - .625" oval shaped and purplish in color containing a large seed.

Wildlife Value: The fruit is eaten by as many as 32 species of birds as well as squirrels and foxes. The leaves are consumed by beaver, black bear and white-tailed deer. Squirrels, rabbits and owls are some of the animals that use hollows in the tree for cover.

Habitat: Grows in a wide variety of habitats.

LEAF TYPE

SIMPLE



POLLINATOR

INSECT



WILDLIFE VALUE

MEDIUM

